Defence cooperation agreement between India and Tajikistan

316. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and Tajikistan have signed an agreement for Defence Co-operation in the field of Defence training, etc.; and

(b) if so, the details of the agreement?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) An Agreement on Military Technical Cooperation between India and Tajikistan was signed on April 25, 2002. The Agreement provides **a** framework for defence co-operation between the two countries, including in the field of defence training.

Development of 'Lariat' by Defence Scientists

317. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian defence scientists have achieved a breakthrough by developing a Beyond Visual Range (BVR) missile 'Lahaf for our main battle tank 'Arjun';

(b) if so, the special features of 'Lahaf; and

(c) how it would enhance the fighting capability of the MBT Arjun?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has completed a project establishing feasibility of integrating laser homing anti tank missile 'Lahaf with Main Battle Tank 'Arjun'.

(b) The Lahat missile can be fired from the barrel of MBT Arjun tank. It is semi active having laser homing guidance.

(c) Launching of Lahaf guided missile is an add-on facility on MBT Arjun. The laser homing guidance increases accuracy, hit and kill probability at longer ranges and also improves the survivability of MBT Arjun.

Acquiring nuclear powered submarines for Indian Navy

318. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian Navy has requested the